

WHAT IS CLAIMED

Sub a1
1 A bony tissue resecting system, comprising:
2 a cannula having a side aperture near its distal end; and
3 a rotatable resecting element received within the cannula.

1 2. The bony tissue resecting system of claim 1, wherein, the rotatable
2 resecting element can be distally advanced within the cannula.

1 3. The bony tissue resecting system of claim 1, wherein, the rotatable
2 resecting element has a hollowed out distal end.

1 4. 3 The bony tissue resecting system of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a cannula positioning system adapted to move the cannula from a first position
3 to a second position, wherein the cannula points in the same direction at each of the first and
4 second positions.

1 5. 4 The bony tissue resecting system of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a cannula positioning system adapted to move the cannula from a first position
3 to a second position, wherein the orientation of the cannula in the first position is parallel to
4 the orientation of the cannula in the second position.

1 6. 5 The bony tissue resecting system of claim 5, wherein the cannula
2 positioning system comprises:
3 a support which is rotatable about a central axis, wherein the support holds the
4 cannula in an orientation such that the central longitudinally extending axis of the cannula is
5 parallel to the central axis of the support.

1 7. 6 The bony tissue resecting system of claim 1, wherein, the cannula has
2 an enclosed tapered end.

Sub a2
1 8. A method of resecting a portion of a bony tissue joint, comprising:
2 positioning a cannula adjacent a bony tissue joint such that a portion of the
3 bony tissue joint is received within a side aperture in the cannula, wherein the side aperture is
4 disposed near the distal end of the cannula; and

5 distally, advancing a rotatable resecting element through the cannula such that
6 the rotatable resecting element resects the portion of the bony tissue joint received within the
7 side aperture of the cannula.

1 ~~9. 8~~ The method of claim ~~8~~ ⁷, wherein, the cannula is positioned adjacent the
2 bony tissue joint by rotating a cannula support about a central axis, wherein the cannula
3 support holds the cannula such that the central longitudinally extending axis of the cannula is
4 parallel to the central axis of the cannula support.

1 ~~10. 9~~ The method of claim ~~8~~ ⁷, wherein, the rotatable resecting element is
2 advanced distally such that tissue resected from the bony tissue joint is received within a
3 hollowed out distal end of the rotatable resecting element.

1 ~~11. 10~~ The method of claim ~~8~~ ⁷, wherein, the rotatable resecting element is
2 advanced distally such that tissue resected from the bony tissue joint is received between a
3 closed distal end of the cannula and the distal end of the rotatable resecting element.

Add a3